

Office of Railroad Transportation

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August 24, 2015

Dear Recipient:

The Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation program is a new grant funding opportunity to improve Iowa's freight transportation system.

On August 10, 2015, at the Iowa Transportation Commission workshop, the Commission agreed upon a one-time funding initiative for improving the freight transportation system in Iowa. The new program is called the Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) program. Iowa DOT has for several years unsuccessfully sought to obtain a flexible, sustainable source of state funding to meet multimodal and freight needs. The Department has identified \$2.6 million in one-time funding to utilize as a demonstration round for the LIFTS program. The program would award funds as grants.

The purpose of the LIFTS program is to:

- Enhance economic development by improving multimodal freight transportation
- Provide flexible funding for changing demands of freight transportation
- Enhance ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods
- Incentivize alternate modes for economic development partnership purposes

Eligibility Criteria:

The LIFTS program is open to Transportation providers/users, Cities, Counties, planning organizations and any other entity interested in freight transportation.

Applicants will fall under one of two categories:

- Public applicants or public-private partnerships
 - Eligible for 80% grant funding
- Private applicants
 - Eligible for 50% grant funding

Applications and Award Timeline:

Applications must be received via email or mail by 3:30 pm on or before October 23, 2015. Following receipt, applications will go through a review/scoring process and will be presented to the Iowa DOT Commission for approval with final awards expected in January 2016. The LIFTS program is a reimbursement program that will award funds as grants.

The Iowa DOT will host a webinar on August 27, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. We invite anyone interested in the program to attend. To learn more about what type of freight projects are eligible, to obtain an application, or to register for the webinar, please visit www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/assistance/lifts.htm For specific questions, please contact Laura Hutzell at laura.hutzell@dot.iowa.gov or (515)-239-1066.

Sincerely,



Stuart Anderson, Director
Planning, Programming and Modal Division

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